

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

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GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, SZ

SUBJ: SWISS TARIFFS INHIBIT IMPORTS OF US MADE TEXTILE GOODS

1. LOCAL TRADE CONTACTS REPORT THAT, WITH THE ABOLITION OF IMPORT DUTIES FOR THE EFTA COUNTRIES AND THE PHASED ELIMINATION OF DUTIES FOR IMPORTS FROM THE EEC, AMERICAN-MADE SWEAT SHIRTS, TEE-SHIRTS, TRACK SUITS AND SIMILAR ITEMS ARE BEING PRICED OUT OF THE SWISS MARKET. PRINCIPAL COMPETITORS FOR THE U.S. ARE PORTUGAL AND ITALY, WHICH HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD RANKING SUPPLIERS TO SWITZERLAND AFTER THE US. ONE IMPORTER, FOR EXAMPLE, STATED THAT HE EXPECTS DEMAND FOR HIS AMERICAN LINES TO DWINDLE FROM ABOUT DOLS 500,000 ANNUALLY TO A SMALL FRACTION OF THAT AMOUNT IN 1976.

2. FOR SWEAT SHIRTS MADE OF COTTON (SWISS TARIFF POSITION 6005.50), FOR EXAMPLE, THE DUTY PER UNIT FROM THE US WORKS OUT TO ABOUT 1.10 SWISS FRANCS; FROM ITALY (DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1976) 0.19 SFRS; FROM PORTUGAL, NIL. AFTER JANUARY 1, 1977, WHEN THE PHASED ELIMINATION OF DUTIES ON EEC IMPORTS WILL BE COMPLETED, THE TARIFF FROM ITALY WILL ALSO BE NIL. FOR SWEAT SHIRTS MADE OF 50 PER CENT COTTON
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AND 50 PER CENT ACRYLIC FIBER (SWISS TARIFF POSITION 60005.20),

THE COMPARABLE FIGURES ARE USA - 2.57 SFRS.: ITALY
0.50 SFRS., REDUCING TO NIL IN 1977; PORTUGAL - NIL.
THE MARKET PRICE PER SWEAT SHIRT,
AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 16.00 SFRS. WHOLESALE AND 26.00 SFRS
RETAIL.

3. TOTAL US EXPORTS TO SWITZERLAND WITHIN THESE TWO
TARIFF POSITIONS HAVE AMOUNTED TO AN ESTIMATED 6 TO 7
MILLION SWISS FRANCS ANNUALLY (DOLS 1.00 EQUALS
APPROX. 2.60 FRANCS).
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